

attributed, as advocated in the Dewan's opening Address, to the State having steadily extended its nation-building activities. The Member, referring to the Departments of Education, Public Works, Medical and Sanitary, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Industries, reiterated that the increased expenditure of the State was not due so much to the outlay incidental to the development of the State, as to the phenomenal increase under the items of salaries, establishments and allowances.

He also observed that the State services were overstaffed and overpaid, that it was necessary to reduce and equalise the scales of pay sanctioned to higher officers consistent with local requirements, and that the amount paid as travelling allowance to Government servants should be reduced immediately as had been done in other parts of India.

The Member suggested that, with a view to effect reduction of expenditure on the public service in all its details and to consider its ways and means, a strong committee of able and experienced men, consisting of a majority of non-officials, should be appointed, like the Geddes Committee of England and the Incheape Committee of British India, in order to examine the existing sources of revenue, consider the proportion borne by recurring items of expenditure under salaries and establishments to the stable items of revenue, and decide how far that proportion could be reduced, so that funds might be found for expenditure in directions conducive to the material development of the country and its people. He observed that, though Government had of late effected a certain amount of retrenchment in some departments, yet the fact remained that side by side with that retrenchment several high appointments with large salaries had been created. He also stated that the scope and function of the Salaries Committee appointed by the Government were unduly limited, and that, therefore, the question of retrenchment should be considered afresh by a separate committee as suggested by him. He further represented that the appointment of a Committee of Ways and Means announced in the Dewan's opening Address at the seventeenth session of the Assembly, being a question of vital importance, might be taken up for consideration as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—I do not propose to make any reply to your speech, because the reply to that speech will be found in the pronouncements I have already made on various occasions including the one I made in my Address yesterday. I am afraid you are not going to be convinced by any reply that I may give; nor do I stand convinced by your arguments. All that I can say at present is that we have not said the last word on retrenchment. Retrenchment is not a thing about which it can at any time be said: "Thus far and no further". There may be directions in which we may be able to retrench in future. It is not a matter on which we can dogmatise or which we can anticipate. I may, however, assure you that it is the constant aim of the Government to reduce expenditure as far as possible.

7. Retrenchment in the public service.

Mr. A. Nayanar B. A. & B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil) expressed satisfaction at the retrenchment effected by the Government in the number of officers, in connection with the disposal of the Salaries Committee's Report. He observed that the reduction of the salaries of officers, as advocated by many, would prejudicially affect the quality and tone of the public service; but he thought that further reduction in the number of higher officers was possible to some extent. In the General and Revenue Secreteriat, one more Secretary might be reduced, by appointing the Chief Engineer as the P. W. D. Secretary, as in Madras and the Central Provinces.

Turning to the Land Revenue Department, the Member was of opinion that, since a high-paid Commissioner had been appointed, the post of Division Peishkars might be abolished, and that, in the place of Division Assistants, four Assistant Commissioners of Revenue and four District Magistrates might be appointed on the present pay of Division Assistants. He observed that, by the above arrangement not only would the revenue and the criminal administration become more efficient, but also

the executive and judicial functions would be completely separated. The post of Income-tax Inspectors might also be abolished, since the Tahsildars had been relieved of their Devaswom and Magisterial functions and since the profession tax assessment lists prepared by the Municipal Councils could be made use of by the Income-tax Department.

In regard to the Excise Department, he suggested the abolition of the Nagercoil and Alleppey Circles. Referring to the Education Department, he observed that there was no necessity to have Personal Assistants to the Director of Public Instruction and to the Inspectors of English and Vernacular Schools and that the staff in His Highness the Maha Raja's College was capable of considerable reduction. The Assistant Superintendents of the Police Department who were merely Personal Assistants to the District Superintendents of Police could be abolished, and, in the Department of Public Works, four Executive Engineers would be quite sufficient for the State. A substantial reduction might be effected in the number of the Assistant Engineers and Sub-Engineers also, while the Workshops and Stores Division might be amalgamated and placed under the charge of an Assistant Engineer. He considered that a Sanitary Commissioner was superfluous, as his work could be managed by the Darbar Physician. Turning to the Devaswom Department, the Member said that substantial reduction might be effected by appointing non-official committees to manage the Devaswoms.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you very much for your suggestions. Most of them are similar to those made by the Salaries Committee. As I have already said, there is no finality in these matters. A suggestion, the carrying out of which may not be practicable now, may be found feasible at a later time. So far as the Secretariat is concerned, I wish you would come and work there for a short time. If you do so, I am sure that you will not subscribe to the view that the number of Secretaries could be further reduced.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) LAND REVENUE AND INCOME-TAX.

8. Land records maintenance in the State.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) said that, for a proper and satisfactory system of land revenue administration, a current land register and a land map were highly necessary, that changes due to frequent transfers of property should be noted both in the register and in the map, and that, for that reason, an accurate survey and settlement should precede every attempt at a successful land records maintenance. The survey already completed was defective in several respects. The Member was of opinion that the failure of the land records maintenance work in Travancore was due to three causes, *viz.*, (1) the unwieldy area of some of the *pakuthies* which should not generally exceed three or four square miles so as to be manageable by a simple village officer; (2) the dual responsibility for work thrown upon the Survey and Revenue Departments; and (3) the ignorance of survey work on the part of revenue officers. He stated that the present system of land records maintenance was a more elaborate repetition of the former system, and therefore subject, in a greater degree, to all the faults of the old system. What are known as *poramboke* subdivisions existed at the time of settlement only on paper, and even on paper they were created without reference to the actual state of affairs. The Member said that the Assistant Tahsildars were not attending to *pokkuvaravu* subdivision work. The sketches known as divide sketches were not drawn to scale and had not been demarcated on the ground. Trees covered by *pattas* were treated as trees on *porambokes* and they were then taken over by the Government after the real owner was convicted and fined. The Member then suggested that the concessions granted to cultivation in respect of the *porambokes* on the banks of the Neyyar, Killiyar, Chittar and Karamanai rivers should be extended to all *porambokes*, since the origin of all such *porambokes* was the same. Seeing that the *porambokes* were not usually taxed lands, the Government might notify to the ryots to vacate occupations, and in case they refused to do so within a prescribed time, the Land Conservancy Regulation might be put into operation. The Member also made the